

HEALTH

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Sandbach Urban District Council.



INTERIM REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year ended 31st
December, 1947.



Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Resigned September 30th, 1947)

Temporary Medical Officer of Health :

ANDREW HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector :

G. ALLMAN, M.S.I.A, Cert. R.S.I.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Sandbach Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1947 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of your district. The report is issued in curtailed form as instructed by the Ministry of Health.

The health of your district remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Cleminson returned to take up his duties in January after an absence of almost four years in the Army.

In September he resigned to take up his appointment of Divisional Medical Officer to the National Coal Board, and has asked me to convey to you his appreciation of the co-operation given to him by both you and your staff while he held office.

I am honoured by your having appointed me in Dr. Cleminson's stead.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

The customary notes on the Social Conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Estimated population ... | | ... | 8,599 | | |
| Births | | | | | |
| | | | Total | Male | Female |
| Live Births | Legitimate | ... | 160 | 89 | 71 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| Still Births | Legitimate | ... | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid-1947—19.7.

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—20.5.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—39.8.

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population—0.81.

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population—0.50.

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age is shown as follows :—

| | | | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------|-----|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births—29.5.

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales—41.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—31.2.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0.

Deaths

| | | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Deaths, all ages | ... | 116 | 52 | 64 |

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average populations—13.5.

Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—12.0.

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

| | | | No. of Deaths |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|---------------|
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | ... | 0 |
| Other Maternal causes | ... | ... | 0 |
| | | Total | 0 |

The Maternal Mortality is 0 per 1,000 live and still births.

The statistics for the year are satisfactory and there does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

The following Table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

| Cause of Death | | | | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping cough | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute inf. encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| uterus (F) | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cancer of breast | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 6 | 8 |
| Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| Intracranial vascular lesions | ... | ... | ... | 23 | 12 | 11 |
| Heart diseases | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diarrhoea under two years | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other digestive diseases | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other maternal causes | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Premature birth | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital malformation, birth inj., inf. dis. | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Road traffic accidents | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other violent causes | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| All other causes | ... | ... | ... | 34 | 8 | 26 |
| Total | | | | 116 | 52 | 64 |

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Medical Officer of Health—John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. Resigned September 30th, 1947.

Andrew Henderson, M.B., Ch.B. (October 1st to December 31st, 1947)

Sanitary and Building Inspector—George Allman, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visiting Nurse—Nurse L. Jacks.

Maternity Nurses—The District Nurse and Nurse D. Harper.

Laboratory Facilities

The Town pays for the examination of approved Pathological specimens.

Ambulance Facilities

Two St. John's Ambulances are provided for non-infectious cases. Infectious cases are removed in the West Heath Sanatorium Ambulance.

Nursing in the Homes

A very valuable service is provided for the subscribers to the Local Nursing Association.

Hospitals

Patients from the area are admitted to hospitals in Manchester, Crewe, the Potteries and Macclesfield.

Arclid Infirmary with 320 beds belonging to the Cheshire County Council, admits poor, medical and maternity cases free and others at a reasonable cost.

Infectious cases are removed to the West Heath Sanatorium, Congleton.

A Smallpox Hospital is available at Arclid, with ten beds kept in readiness.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The water supply throughout the Urban Area was satisfactorily maintained during the whole of 1947.

The Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board was the responsible water undertaking as from 1st April, 1947, but as the Board's own administration was not established at that date, the Urban Council acted as agents of the Board until January, 1948.

During the war, the Sandbach mains were interconnected for emergency purposes with mains of the Nantwich Rural Area and during our peak consumption period the Water Board was able to utilise this connection and afford some slight measure of relief at the Sandbach Pumping Station by supplying a portion of Wheelock from the Crewe and Nantwich sources.

The excessive number of burst pipes caused by the severe weather during February and the early part of March, 1947, caused a great strain on the Sandbach resources, but a constant supply was maintained.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

All dwelling houses in the Urban District with the exception of eleven isolated properties, have a piped supply from the public mains. The eleven properties have their own pump wells.

The only extension of mains carried out during 1947 was the laying of about 900 yards of 3 in. main to the Council's Housing Scheme No. 3, which will eventually serve 92 houses. This new main forms a link between the existing mains in Bradwall Road and Middlewich Road.

Drainage and Sewerage

There have not been any sewer extensions during the year except those required for the new housing scheme in Ruscoe Avenue, which serves fifty-four houses and is connected to the main sewage works at Hind Heath Road.

The large and the two smaller works have been able to carry out their functions and the effluents have been satisfactory, although the smaller works are nearing the limit of effective treatment.

During 1948, the Council are hoping to provide a new 6 in. sewer along Hind Heath Road, to serve thirteen premises along this highway. A loan has been applied for and tenders obtained, one being accepted, and the work will be proceeded with early next year.

Closet Accommodation

All the houses in the area are on the water carriage system, where the sewer is available. There are 42 pail closets and 28 privy closets which are emptied as required.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

During the year every effort has been made to provide a weekly collection of ash bins and this has on the whole been maintained. Owing to labour being available, it has been possible for this work to be carried out more effectively than in previous years.

Salvage

There have been collected and sold during the year :—

- 72 tons of Waste Paper
- 577 Cartons
- 4 tons of rags and sacking
- 46 tons of Kitchen waste
- 100 dozens of bottles and jars.

A report is made to the Committee at each Monthly Meeting and they are anxious that a maximum amount of waste product shall be obtained and sold.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

At the request of the Ministry of Food, along with other authorities in the County, the Council acts as the agent of the County Council.

The present arrangements are that all infestations on agricultural land and properties are dealt with by the Officers of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee and all others by the Council Public Health Department. We have no reservoir or major infestations. The smaller infestations are dealt with by poison baits or gassing.

The sewers have been specially treated during the year and were found comparatively free.

Advice is freely given to ratepayers making enquiries who are desirous of treating their own premises and safe bait is supplied.

Sanitary Inspection

| | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| Number of Inspections during the year | ... | 586 |
| Statutory Notices served during the year | ... | 4 |
| Statutory Notices complied with (by Council) | | 1 |
| Informal Notices served during the year | ... | 24 |
| Informal Notices complied with | | 20 |
| Informal Notices in hand | | 4 |

A policy of interviewing the interested parties is carried out before formal notices are served. Improvements are difficult owing to shortage of materials and labour.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no Public Baths.

Public Conveniences

The Council are considering an improvement to this service and the possibility of obtaining a loan is being explored.

SECTION D

Housing

The customary table of activities under the Housing Act is omitted.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which formal notices were served under Housing Acts, requiring repairs, and which were rendered fit by owners after service of such formal notice | 1 |
| Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices under the Public Health Acts were served requiring defects to be remedied and which were complied with | 20 |
| Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | 0 |
| Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Houses under Demolition Orders prior to 1943) | 0 |

Deans Lane Site (Ruscoe Avenue)

This site is now complete with fifty-four houses. Twenty were finished in 1946 and the remaining thirty-four during 1947. The overcrowded houses have been considerably reduced in the Urban area.

Elworth Street Site (Platt Avenue)

The Housing Site in the Elworth Street Area has progressed. Thirty-two houses are in course of construction, and it is hoped that most of these will be ready for occupation early in 1948.

This area has been planned and when completed, will contain ninety-two dwellings ; they will be of the two, three and four bedroom type and also a number of small bungalows for the aged.

The Housing Committee were hoping to have all the proposed houses (90) ready for occupation during 1948, but owing to conditions which the Council cannot control it does not now appear likely that the scheme will be completed before 1949.

Plans Passed

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) Dwellings and Flats | 21 |
| (b) Additions to renovation to dwellings | 6 |
| (c) Other buildings | 42 |

Housing repair work has again been difficult, owing to the high cost of labour, materials and the priority for new houses.

The restriction to essential work by licence has helped to get work done at owner-occupier houses.

Altogether 466 licences were issued for repairs, improvements and decorations to premises—exclusive of new houses :

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Provision of Bathrooms | 24 |
| Provision of Grates | 56 |
| Decorations | 150 |
| Lighting Improvements | 44 |
| Small Extensions | 45 |
| New floor, doors and windows | 40 |
| Miscellaneous | 107 |

Number of dwellings erected during the year—including house and shop into two houses :

| | Houses | Bungalows | Total |
|--|--------|-----------|-------|
| By Private Enterprise ... | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| By Local Authority ... | 34 | 0 | 34 |
| By Local Authority (Pre-fabricated) | 0 | 0 | — |
| Total | 47 | 1 | 48 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Dwellings overcrowded ... | 16 |
| Number of Families therein... .. | 26 |
| Number of Persons dwelling therein ... | 135 |

Canal Boats

There is a short length of canal passing through the Urban Area. Three boats were inspected and were found in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The sampling of milk is now chiefly carried out at the farms by the County Council and routine examinations of cattle are made by the Veterinary Inspectors for the Ministry of Agriculture. The District is well served so far as is allowable under priorities. A quantity is sent to factories and retailers outside the Urban area.

The following grades are available :

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | Accredited |
| Pasteurized | Sterilized |
| Ordinary Milk | |

Dairies and Cow Sheds

Forty visits have been made to the premises of retailers and producers and a higher standard of cleanliness is advocated.

There are forty-one registered producers of milk in the area :

- 7 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 20 producers of Accredited Milk.
- 14 producers of Ordinary Milk.

Improvements have taken place at Reynolds Farm, Heath Farm and Ivy Cottage Farm, The Heath.

Meat and other Foods

The slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Flat Lane premises, from which meat is supplied to the Urban Districts of Alsager, Middlewich and Sandbach.

The numbers and types of animals slaughtered, also carcasses and parts (including organs and offals) found to be unfit for human food, including casualty animals, are shown as follows :

| Type | | Number Slaughtered | Carcases Whole | Portions | Livers; Kidneys, etc. | Plucks, Heads |
|---------|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Bovines | ... | 916 | 27 | 15 | 556 | 98 |
| Sheep | ... | 3220 | 2 | 2 | 475 | 4 |
| Pigs | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Calves | ... | 597 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Total | ... | 4733 | 32 | 17 | 1035 | 104 |

Three animals were notified under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938 during the year. After slaughter two were found to be unfit for human food and were destroyed.

Various amounts of tinned and other foods have been inspected, and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption :

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|-------------|-----|----------|
| Butter | ... | 33 lbs. | Tinned Meat | ... | 21 tins |
| Bacon | ... | 49 lbs. | Sausages | ... | 28 lbs. |
| Cheese | ... | 12 lbs. | Fish | ... | 28 st. |
| Meat Pies | ... | 12 lbs. | Fish | ... | 16 tins |
| Cake | ... | 16 lbs. | Milk | ... | 102 tins |
| Jam | ... | 11 lbs. | Peas | ... | 2 cwt. |
| Fruit | ... | 15 lbs. | Beans | ... | 8 tins |
| | | | Eggs | ... | 311 |

There are 28 registered premises for the sale and preparation of Ice Cream and Preserved Food under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As indicated in the accompanying tables there was no undue prevalence of any infectious diseases. Although there was a widespread epidemic of infantile paralysis throughout the country reaching its peak during the late summer months, only one case was notified in the district.

There were no cases of diphtheria.

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths from each of these diseases :

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1947

| Disease | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 12 | 7 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles ... | 102 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table shows the number of children immunised to the end of the year, under the Council's Immunisation Scheme :

| | |
|--|------|
| No. of children immunised, under School age | 30 |
| No. of children immunised, of School age ... | 2 |
| No. of children given a reinforcing injection... | 8 |
| Total number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1939 | 2146 |

Factories Act, 1937

One factory is providing a plant for the extraction of dust from their wood-working department.

One application has been received for a Certificate as to means of escape in case of fire, and will be issued when suitable provisions are made.

The following tables, on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, give details of inspections and cases where defects were found :

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

| Premises | Number on Register | No. of Inspec- tions | No. of Written Notices | No. of Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 55 | 68 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (iii) Other Premises under the Act (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 55 | 68 | 0 | 0 |

Cases in which Defects were found

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. | |
|---|--|-----------|--|---|
| | Found. | Remedied. | | |
| Want of cleanliness | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Overcrowding | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Unreasonable temperature | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Inadequate ventilation | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Sanitary Conveniences— | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | In hand | | 0 |
| Unsuitable or defective | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Totals | 1 | 0 | | 0 |

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups

| Disease | Under 1 year | 1 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 45 | 65 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough... | ... | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | ... | 2 | 20 | 29 | 46 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | ... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1947

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Mortality | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Up to 1 year | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1—5 | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5—15 | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15—25 | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25—35 | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35—45 | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45—55 | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55—65 | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

My thanks are due to the Clerk of the Council,
the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help
in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRIL DOVE CORMAC,

Medical Officer of Health.

